



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Patricia Jursik, 8th District

For Immediate Release May 19, 2009
Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

STRATEGIC PLANNING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM PROPOSED FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Resolution aims to insulate County Controller and achieve more long-range planning

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Patricia Jursik is introducing a resolution, to be considered during the June Board cycle, which addresses the financial crisis facing Milwaukee County. The resolution restructures the County Controller to insulate the position from political pressures and ensure objective reporting on the County's financial condition. It also calls for strategic planning, which was previously adopted by the Board but never implemented. "Perhaps this financial crisis will be the impetus that is needed for the County Executive and the Board to get serious about thinking strategically for broad financial planning," Supervisor Jursik said.

Supervisor Jursik is also requesting that the County Executive stop playing politics with the financial condition of the County. Last week, the County Executive's budget director and support staff appeared before the County Board's Finance & Audit Committee for extensive discussions regarding the projected 2009 deficit. Yet, at this meeting, no one from the County Executive's office or his administrative staff mentioned any proposals to reduce the County workweek to 35 hours. The Committee was bypassed so the County Executive could save the announcement for a news release later that same day. "It's unfortunate that the County Executive's desire to generate headlines and support his campaign for Governor ignore the importance of strategic planning," said Supervisor Jursik, a member of the Finance & Audit Committee. "Inaction on developing long-term solutions alienates these two branches of County government. Issuing press releases is not the same as providing leadership."

Last month, the Public Policy Forum outlined many of the issues that need to be addressed by the County's Long-Range Strategic Plan Steering Committee, which will include three Supervisors, three members of the Executive branch, and one each from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Association of Commerce, Milwaukee Area Labor Council and the Public Policy Forum. The resulting recommendations will be given first to the newly organized Controller's office before being presented to the County Board. "I am hopeful that this proposal will finally get us on track for a broad, realistic and non-political analysis of Milwaukee County's financial goals," Jursik concluded.

###